

## Walk from Granny's to Main Beach

Edited by Bev Mortimer

A wooden + R1-million boardwalk from Granny's Pool to Main Beach is on the cards and excitement is already mounting among walkers, hikers, fishermen, nature lovers and photographers.

There is a path along the entire stretch of coast from the Kromme River mouth to the Cape St Francis lighthouse, except for the first 100 metres between the St Francis Bay main beach and Granny's Pool. This stretch is boulder-strewn and rocky, difficult to traverse even at low tide, and impassable at high tide.

The St Francis Bay Kromme Enviro-Trust is the applicant and the aim of the boardwalk is to complete the coastal path from the Kromme River to the Cape St Francis lighthouse. In addition it will link the coastal amenities of St Francis Bay, providing a safe and accessible route between the main swimming beach and the only paddling pool in St Francis Bay; improve access for fishermen; and protect the ecology of the coastal fringe.

"The Two Harbours Walk from Port St Francis to Granny's Pool is a boardwalk for much of its length," the Trust says. "Wherever the terrain is difficult, it is only logical to continue the facility for the extra few hundred metres to main beach."

Many visitors, including the increasing number of Choikha Trail walkers, use the Two Harbours boardwalk and the access it provides to tourist amenities. Both visitors and residents will make use of the variety of amenities offered in the area by using the proposed walkway, with resulting economic benefit to St Francis Bay.

"Granny's Pool is the only rock pool in St Francis Bay where members of the community from toddlers to the elderly,

including the less able can paddle and swim. However, because there is no direct access to the pool from main beach, bathers are required to travel a longer route to gain access to the pool. Walking is at present too difficult and unsafe. The boardwalk will provide safe passage and enable people to move back and forth easily between the two areas."

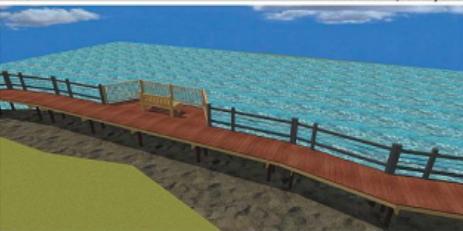
"Fishermen use this stretch of coast constantly, because of its proximity and the abundance of fish present in the area. They too must contend with the rocky terrain and the impossibility of high tide. The boardwalk is proposed to include fishing bays to accommodate the fishermen's needs," the Trust says.

In addition, fishermen and walkers making their way along the starting fringe at the eastern end of the beach create a lot of sandy soil and destroy plant growth, gradually weakening the landforms and causing coastal retreat, the Trust maintains. "The boardwalk will protect the coastal fringe from this destruction."

"Many residents of St Francis Bay commemorate their loved ones with community amenities such as park benches, trees, plaques and memorials. Community amenity and it is proposed that commemorative plaques be erected at 1 metre intervals for those who would like to remember people who are gone. This is not a municipal project and funds will be needed to construct the walkway. The commemorative sections of the walkway will be open to the public at R2000 a metre."

The proposed walkway will be 305 metres in length and 1.2 metres wide, with a guardrail of 0.9 metres in height and will be constructed within the littoral active zone

## NEWS



An impression of what the proposed boardwalk will look like

and the high-water mark of the sea. The type landscape present on the site is Aigao Dune Strandveld (Least Threatened) and the area is considered to be a Critical Biodiversity Area or Ecological Support Environmental Process.

The St Francis Bay Kromme Enviro-Trust will require prior authorisation in terms of the following: National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) (Act 107 of 1998); the 2017 NEMA EIA Regulations; National Environmental Management: Integrated Environmental Management (Act 2008); Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (NHRRA) (Act 25 of 1999);

Eco-Route Environmental Consultancy has been appointed as the Independent Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to ensure compliance with the regulations contained in the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998 as amended) and the 2017 National Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations for a Basic Assessment Process.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) will be provided with a Background Information Document (BID) to provide information on the development proposal; to describe the environmental process being undertaken in terms of the above mentioned regulations; and to provide the way forward.

The proposed boardwalk will be 1.2 metres wide with a guardrail of 0.9 metres high.

Currently the following alternative is being considered for this project: • Two fishing platforms will be included in the design of the boardwalk.

The procedures of a Basic Assessment Environmental Process, as per the 2017 EIA Regulations, are being undertaken for this environmental process.

A pre-application Public Participation Process (PPP) is being undertaken to inform the departmental proposal prior to submission of a formal Application to the Department of Economic Affairs and Tourism, Environmental Affairs and Tourism.



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Some more words you may need from letters. No words to be less than four letters. Every word has to contain the middle, bold letter. The goal is to also find the four letter word/s, its plural nouns, capital letters, slangs, or foreign language words (unless excepted in the Definitions section). This month's goal: 68 words, 20 plurals, 4 foreign words, 1 slang.

Note: Verbs ending in 's' like 'have' have been elided.

The correct solution is on p14.

Word Puzzle compiled by Bev Mortimer

C	O	D
N	E	M
R	M	E

### Calibre Security

042 294 0038

G4S 042 294 1303

### Shmidt Security

0861 010 15 16

NSRI 042 294 0131

### Doctors

042 294 0047;

042 294 0719

### Ambulance

10177;

Private Ambulance: 042 291 0749

### Fire department:

042 291 0283

### Flooding:

Willie Botha: 082 857 2253

Electricity Problems A/H : 042 291 0250

Municipality off: 042 2002200

## CONTACT ST FRANCIS CHRONICLE

Address: PO Box 343 St Francis Bay 6312.

Tel: 083 609 5835

Email: [sfc@stfrancis.co.za](mailto:sfc@stfrancis.co.za)

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